

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 AID-05 IO-13 DIWY-01
AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SP-02 SS-15 HEW-04 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /078 W
-----128450 220723Z /17

R 220543Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3477

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION

REF: A) STATE 167895 B) 76 ISLAMABAD A-24, FEB. 13, 1976
C) USAID O/PHN-5/9/77 MULTI YEAR POPULATION STRATEGY
FOR PAKISTAN

1. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: TOTAL POPULATION JANUARY 1977 IS
ESTIMATED AT 73.4 MILLION. THE BIRTH RATE IN BOTH 1975 AND
1976 WAS 44.5/1000 AND THE DEATH RATE IN BOTH YEARS WAS 14.5/1000.
THESE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF PAKI-
STAN, ADJUSTED ON THE BASIS OF THE 1972 CENSUS. THE PAKISTAN
INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS AND THE PAKISTAN FERTILITY
SURVEY SHOW BIRTH ESTIMATES BETWEEN 40.5 AND 43.6, BASED ON
CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEYS WHICH OFTEN UNDER-ESTIMATE BIRTH RATES.

2. THE MAJOR CHANGE IN POPULATION PLANNING POLICY SINCE
REF B HAS BEEN THE FEDERALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM. PROVINCIAL
BOARDS HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED AND THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IS
NOW CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED BY A FEDERAL SECRETARY, WITH
FOUR REGIONAL OFFICES, EACH UNDER A DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

3. IN GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN
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RATHER HALF-HEARTED AS WAS POINTED OUT IN REF B. PUBLIC
STATEMENTS ON POPULATION POLICY ARE INFREQUENT. THE
PROGRAM IS STAFFED BY PEOPLE WHO GENERALLY REPRESENT LESS
THAN THE BEST OF THE PAKISTANI CIVIL SERVICE HAS TO OFFER.

4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS MINIMAL ALTHOUGH SOME EFFORT
HAS BEEN MADE TO INCREASE IT. EVEN DURING THE YEARS OF

AYUB KHAN'S "BASIC DEMOCRACIES" THIS DIMENSION MADE LITTLE HEADWAY. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK OF A NEW SYSTEM OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS, BUT NOTHING HAS MATERIALIZED.

5. HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND FAMILY PLANNING: MOST HEALTH FACILITIES, BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE, WILL CLAIM THEY ARE INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING AMONG THEIR SERVICES BUT THE FACT IS THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IS NEGLIGIBLE. POPULATION PLANNING AND HEALTH ARE SEPARATE, INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. FAMILY PLANNING IS LEFT TO THE POPULATION PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT WELL COORDINATED WITH THE HEALTH SERVICE PEOPLE. THE POPULATION PLANNING DIVISION HAS BROADENED HEALTH OFFERINGS IN ITS FAMILY WELFARE CLINICS TO INCLUDE MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE, INCLUDING TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS, IN ADDITION TO FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES.

6. ADEQUACY OF CURRENT DONOR ASSISTANCE: THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SHORTAGE OF DONOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROGRAM, BUT

USE OF THESE RESOURCES HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN EFFECTIVE. MOST DONORS ARE NOW TYING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC COMPONENTS, REQUIRING DETAILED PLANS IN ADVANCE. USAID IS INTRODUCING FIXED REIMBURSEMENT INTO ITS ASSISTANCE FOR THE VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION PROGRAM AND THE PROPOSED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

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7. NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS AFFECTING POPULATION GROWTH WERE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY IN REF B. THE PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR '77-'83 INCLUDES A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE BASIC SERVICES WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL MODERATE FERTILITY. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS BEING GIVEN TO EDUCATION, HEALTH SERVICES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE. IF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT WERE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS, GRADUAL REDUCTION OF FERTILITY LEVELS WOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, THE PAST RECORD OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT GOALS HAS BEEN POOR. IT HAS BARELY SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING UP WITH DEMAND FOR SERVICES.

8. AS IT IS IN MOST ORTHODOX ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, THE STATUS OF WOMEN IS VERY LOW IN PAKISTAN BY WESTERN STANDARDS. MANY WOMEN ARE KEPT IN "PURDAH" (SECLUSION) AND VERY FEW WOMEN RECEIVE ANY EDUCATION. THE LITERACY RATE FOR WOMEN IS 9 PERCENT, THAT OF MEN 30 PERCENT. EVEN WOMEN WHO DO ATTEND SCHOOL ARE USUALLY FORCED TO QUIT AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THERE IS A DEFINITE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN A WOMAN HAS AND THE EXTENT OF HER EDUCATION. ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF PAKISTANI WOMEN HAVE COMPLETED EVEN A PRIMARY EDUCATION. IT IS UN-

LIKELY THAT THE PERCENTAGE WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR SEVERAL REASONS, INCLUDING A SHORTAGE OF SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES, INCLUDING THE NEGATIVE MALE ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLOWING WOMEN TO GO TO SCHOOL. BHUTTO'S GOVERNMENT DID MAKE SINCERE EFFORTS TO RAISE THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

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9. INCOME REDISTRIBUTION: DATA ON INCOME DISTRIBUTION ARE LIMITED. IN GENERAL, PAKISTAN'S INCOME DISTRIBUTION IS THOUGHT TO BE MORE LEVEL THAN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT IT IS NOW KNOWN WHETHER ANY INCOME REDISTRIBUTION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT YEARS. SEVERAL LAND REFORMS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BUT AT TIMES LAND HAS JUST BEEN SHUFFLED AROUND AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY.

10. FOOD AND POPULATION WERE COVERED ADEQUATELY IN REF B. MORE RECENT STATISTICS SHOW THE NEED FOR GRAIN IMPORTS IS RAPIDLY DECREASING. THE 1976 WHEAT CROP WAS 8.8 MILLION TONS AND THE ESTIMATES FOR THE 1977 CROP GO AS HIGH AS 9 MILLION TONS. PAKISTAN IS A RICE EXPORTER AND DUE TO THE BUMPER CROPS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS IS CURRENTLY A NET GRAIN EXPORTER. HOWEVER, CONSUMPTION OF EDIBLE OILS IS RISING RAPIDLY AND INCREASES IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ARE NOT EXPECTED TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND, DESPITE A GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO RAISE PRODUCTION BY INTRODUCTION OF NEW OILSEEDS, ADDITIONAL ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION AND USAGE OF BETTER EXTRACTION PROCESSES.

11. THE GOP WILL FINANCE SOME PURCHASES THROUGH COMMERCIAL

CHANNELS AND WILL SEEK CONCESSIONAL LOANS AND GRANTS FOR
THE BALANCE.

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12. STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD REMAINS A PROBLEM.
PAKISTAN IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN EMERGENCY STORAGE
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WHICH WILL DOUBLE CURRENT STORAGE
CAPACITY. THEY ARE ALSO TRYING TO ADDRESS THE SERIOUS
PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA08526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0343
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770838/aaaabfyd.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 167895, 76 ISLAMABAD A-24
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1530495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION
TAGS: SPOP, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a873fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009